



Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

Indicators from the Bureau of Labor Statistics'
Current Employment Statistics Survey
Series 1: State & National Employment

Series 1, Issue 84

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Data in the report are seasonally adjusted. Self-employed persons, including health professionals in private practice, are not included.

Highlights

- ◆ According to preliminary estimates, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector created 900 new jobs in February, a gain that represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 2.4%. With this gain, Virginia has increased HC&SA employment in each of the past four months.
- ◆ While Virginia's HC&SA sector enjoyed another month of positive employment growth in February, the state's total nonfarm payroll fell by 3,000 during the month. This decline translates into a one-month annualized growth rate of -0.9%. However, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll has still grown by 17,400 so far in 2019.
- ◆ Employment growth in the national HC&SA sector continued to slow down in February. The national HC&SA sector created 22,500 jobs in February, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 1.3%. This is well below its current 12-month employment growth rate of 2.3%.
- ◆ The nation's total nonfarm payroll also experienced a significant slowdown in its growth rate in February. After growing by 311,000 in January, the nation's total nonfarm payroll increased by only 20,000 in February. This represents its weakest monthly gain since September 2017.

Data in Brief

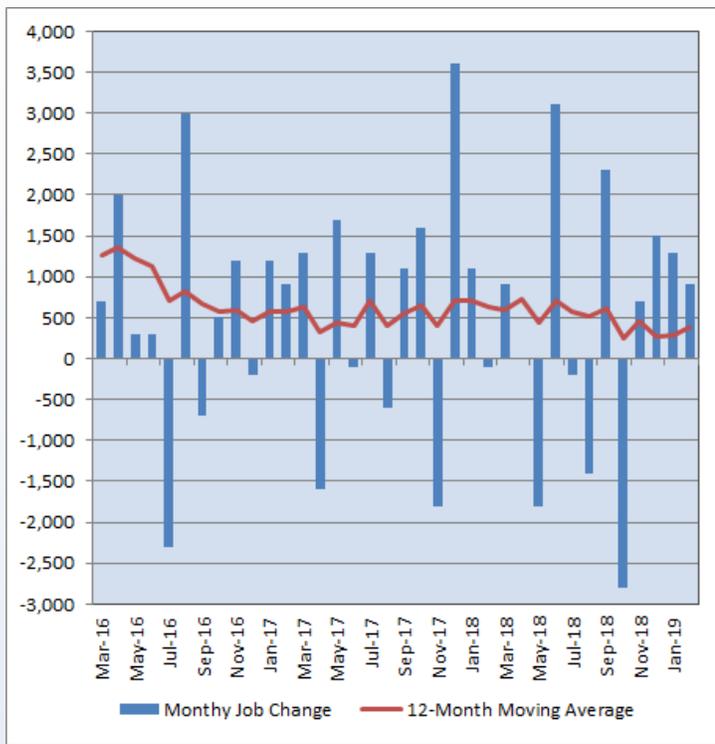
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Feb. 2018	Nov. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
Nonfarm, Total							
Virginia	3,994.5	4,009.2	4,029.0	4,026.0	0.8%	1.7%	-0.9%
National	148,097.0	150,048.0	150,586.0	150,606.0	1.7%	1.5%	0.2%
Health Care & Social Assistance							
Virginia	443.6	444.4	447.2	448.1	1.0%	3.4%	2.4%
National	19,774.7	20,113.2	20,203.4	20,225.9	2.3%	2.3%	1.3%
All Other Nonfarm							
Virginia	3,550.9	3,564.8	3,581.8	3,577.9	0.8%	1.5%	-1.3%
National	128,322.3	129,934.8	130,382.6	130,380.1	1.6%	1.4%	0.0%

Preliminary estimates are italicized

*Seasonally adjusted data are adjusted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to account for weather, holidays and other seasonal changes. Economists use seasonally adjusted data to reveal underlying trends over time. This series uses seasonally adjusted data exclusively. When comparing data in this series to other HWDC series, or publications from other sources, it is important to note whether the data reported have been seasonally adjusted.

Virginia HC&SA Employment

Figure 1: Monthly Change in Employment in Virginia’s Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted.



According to preliminary data released on Friday, March 22, 2019, by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia’s Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector enjoyed its fourth consecutive month of positive employment growth thanks to the creation of 900 new jobs in February. This gain represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 2.4%.

Even though February’s job creation number was less than the employment gains from the previous two months, the short-term job growth in Virginia’s HC&SA sector continues to be impressive. Over the past three months, employment in Virginia’s HC&SA sector has grown at a 3.4% annualized rate. At this level, employment in Virginia’s HC&SA sector has grown at twice the rate of the state’s total non-farm payroll over the past three months.

February’s job gain also exceeds the 12-month moving average of the employment change in Virginia’s HC&SA sector. Over the past year, HC&SA employment in the state has grown by an average of 375 jobs per month. This average monthly gain translates into a 1.0% annual growth rate.

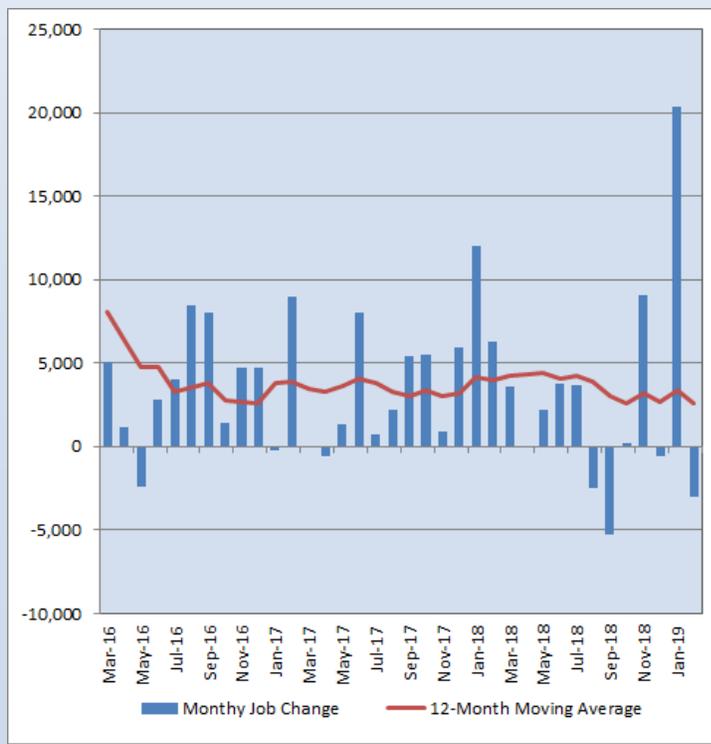
Virginia Employment

Although Virginia’s HC&SA sector enjoyed positive employment growth in February, this growth did not translate into a gain in the state’s total nonfarm payroll during the month. One month after experiencing its largest gain in more than three years in January, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll fell by 3,000 in February. This decline represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of -0.9%. In addition, this job loss represents the largest monthly decline in Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll since last September.

With this decline, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll has now fallen in two of the past three months. Regardless, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll has still grown at a 1.7% annualized rate since last December thanks to an impressive gain of 20,400 in January. This growth rate exceeds the comparable 1.5% growth rate in the nation’s total nonfarm payroll.

However, long-term growth in Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll remains slow. The 12-month moving average of the change in Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll fell in February to a four-month low. Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll is now growing by an average of 2,625 per month over the past year.

Figure 2: Monthly Change in Employment in Virginia’s Total Non-farm Payroll, Seasonally Adjusted.

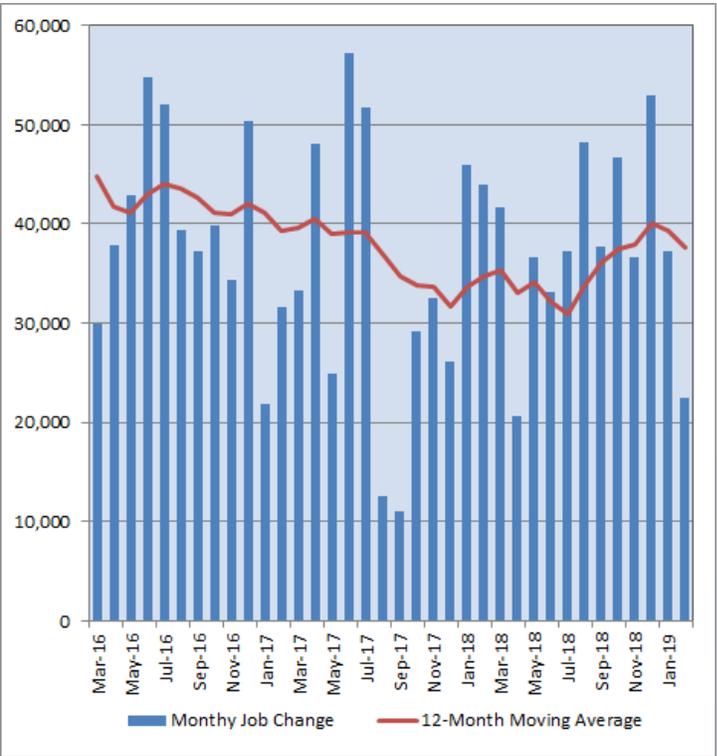


National Employment

Last December, the national HC&SA sector experienced its largest one-month employment gain in one-and-a-half years. However, employment growth in the national HC&SA sector has slowed considerably during the following two months. In February, the national HC&SA sector created 22,500 new jobs across the country. This represents the smallest monthly employment gain in the national HC&SA sector in nearly one year. This monthly increase is also well below the 12-month moving average of the employment change in the national HC&SA sector, which fell to a four-month low in February. With this fall, employment in the national HC&SA sector has experienced an average monthly gain of 37,600 over the past year.

The slow employment growth in the national HC&SA sector in February is mirrored by the weakness in the growth of the nation’s total nonfarm payroll. The overall national economy enjoyed very strong employment growth in January thanks to a gain in its total nonfarm payroll of 311,000. However, February’s gain in the nation’s total nonfarm payroll amounted to only 20,000. This represents its weakest monthly employment gain in more than one year.

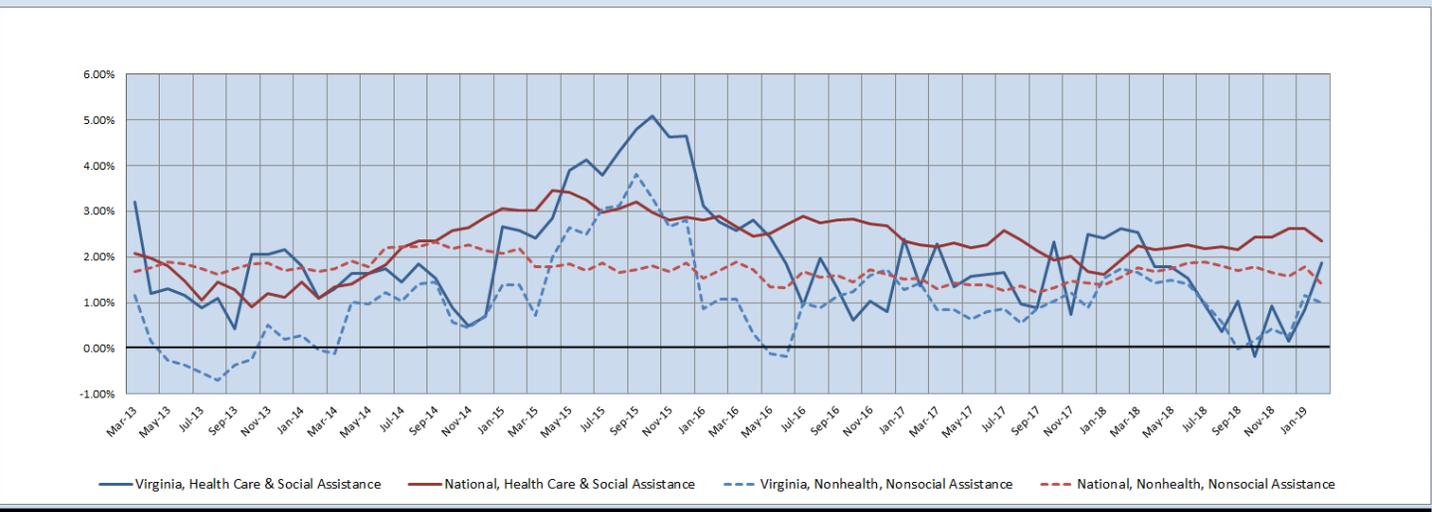
Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted



State Employment Growth

Thanks to its strong job gains over the past several months, the six-month moving average of the employment growth rate in Virginia’s HC&SA sector has rebounded strongly from its lows during Q4 2018. In February, this moving average more than doubled from 0.83% to 1.86%, thereby reaching its highest value in almost one year. On the other hand, the six-month moving average of the growth rate in Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll fell in February from 1.15% to 1.00%. However, as with Virginia’s HC&SA sector, this moving average also remains well above its values from Q4 2018. The national HC&SA sector also experienced a fall in its six-month employment growth rate moving average from 2.62% to 2.35%, while the comparable moving average for the nation’s total nonfarm payroll fell from 1.78% to 1.41%.

Figure 4: Six-Month Moving Average, Employment Growth, Seasonally Adjusted



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The Department of Health Professions Healthcare Workforce Data Center works to improve the data collection and measurement of Virginia's healthcare workforce through regular assessment of workforce supply and demand issues among the 80 professions and 350,000 practitioners licensed in Virginia by DHP.

The HWDC collects data on Virginia's licensed health professionals through surveys completed during the online license renewal and application process. Survey results and data may be accessed on our website: www.dhp.virginia.gov/hwdc/.

The HWDC also provides a series of Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs based on data collected by the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics and the US Department of Commerce' Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs:

Series 1: State & National Employment (Monthly)

Series 2: Virginia Regional Employment (Monthly)

Series 3: Income & Compensation (Quarterly)

About the Data

Data in this report are from the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Employment Statistics program. The CES program surveys about 143,000 businesses and government agencies monthly. Unless otherwise noted, this series uses seasonally-adjusted data that removes seasonal variations related to weather, holidays, weekends, seasons and other predictable variations. This allows us to better examine underlying trends in the labor market. Data from recent months are preliminary and subject to revision in future releases from the CES. Revisions will be reported in future editions of this series. Unless otherwise noted, the CES data presented in this series:

Includes:

- ◆ Data on employed individuals drawing a paycheck (payroll employees).
- ◆ All employees, regardless of role, occupation or hours worked.
- ◆ HC&SA employees in the private sector only.
- ◆ Persons employed by health professionals in private practice.
- ◆ Both government and private sector workers in nonfarm employment data.

Does not include:

- ◆ Self-employed workers or volunteers, including health professionals in private practice.
 - ◆ HC&SA employees in the public sector. (These are counted as government workers in monthly reports).
 - ◆ Information on hours worked or the quality of employment.
 - ◆ Government workers in HC&SA level data. (Government workers, regardless of occupation and role, are classified as public sector employees).
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